

Membership Balance Plan
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INTEGRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Name

Advisory Committee for Integrative Activities (the Committee) #1373

2. Authority

This committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. and the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §1861 et. seq.

3. Mission/Function

To advise the National Science Foundation (NSF) on the merit of proposals requesting financial support of research and research-related activities. To review proposals submitted to NSF under the purview of the Office of Integrative Activities (OIA). To provide advice and recommendations to the National Science Foundation concerning research activities in OIA.

The Committee will review and evaluate proposals, which may include site visits, and provide written recommendations on proposals as part of the selection process for awards. The Committee may evaluate and provide advice on the progress of awarded proposals.

The Committee may review and advise on the impact of research and research support encompassed by OIA.

The Committee may advise OIA on program management, overall program balance, and other aspects of program performance within OIA.

The Committee may advise as to the impact of overall NSF-wide policies on the scientific community.

4. Points of View

The Committee consists of members who are appointed by the Head, OIA. The subject and number of proposals to be reviewed determine the number of members attending each meeting. Members are selected on an ad hoc basis.

Primary considerations are:

- Special knowledge of the science and engineering subfields involved in the proposals to be reviewed to evaluate competence, intellectual merit, and utility of the proposed activity. Within reasonable limits, reviewers' fields of specialty should be complementary within a reviewer group.
- Broader or more generalized knowledge of the science and engineering subfields involved in the proposals to be reviewed to evaluate the broader impacts of the proposed activity. Reviewers with broad expertise are required for proposals involving substantial size or complexity, broad disciplinary or multidisciplinary content, or significant national or international implications.

- Broad knowledge of the infrastructure of the science and engineering enterprise, and its educational activities, to evaluate contributions to societal goals, scientific and engineering personnel, and distribution of resources to organizations and geographical areas.

Federal employee members will be designated as Regular Government Employees (RGEs) Individuals outside the Federal Government will be designated Special Government Employees (SGE). The members will provide their own best independent judgment based on their individual expertise.

5. Other Balance Factors

To the extent practicable, other factors considered are:

- Qualified individuals reflecting small, medium, and large organizations, as well as public and private organizations
- Qualified individuals reflecting underrepresented groups, such as ethnic minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities
- Qualified individuals reflecting range of ages
- Qualified individuals reflecting different geographical areas

6. Candidate Identification Process

OIA staff will solicit suggestions for potential members from a wide range of sources, including but not limited to: NSF management, knowledgeable NSF program staff, other Federal agencies, and proposers.

Suggestions will be reviewed and potential candidates will be identified taking into consideration professional and personal qualifications, experience, and other balance factors. The best qualified candidates for each area will be identified. The resulting top candidates will be contacted for interest and availability

7. Subcommittee Balance


The process used to determine advisory committee member balance for the Committee will be used for subcommittees that may be created.

8. Other

There are currently no other known factors affecting the balance of the Committee.

9. Date Reviewed

This Membership Balance Plan was reviewed on 6/4/15



Wanda E. Ward

Head

Office of Integrative Activities